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Duxbury Clipper

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Nathaniel Winsor Jr. House Open to Public

The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society has moved its office to the Nathaniel Winsor Jr. House, 479 Washington Street. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.

The building will house the administrative functions of the Society. The rooms on the first floor will allow space for meetings of DR&HS committees, small lectures, as well as meetings for outside events.

According to DR&HS President Jim Hartford, "The headquarters will be served by the physical spaces of the first

floor of the building, with its better access, dedicated off-street parking, larger public meeting space, and greater visibility within the heart of the community."

The house was built in 1807 for Nathaniel Winsor Jr. A carver of figureheads for ships by trade, Winsor carried on the maritime traditions of his family. His father, Nathaniel Winsor Sr. built up a successful fishing fleet flowing the American Revolution.

Several features of the house are attributed to renowned architects of the time. The front

entrance and elliptical stairway are both thought to be of Bullfinch design. The design of the palladian window is attributed to Asher Benjamin, author of reference books on design and construction which were widely used by ship carpenters of Duxbury. Nathaniel Winsor Jr. carved several of the mantles and the tremendous mirror in the main hall.

A public opening ceremony and ribbon cutting for the house will take place on Saturday, October 21, at 11 am. The community is invited to take part in recognizing the support and efforts of many members of the Society who have made the opening of the house possible.

The library and archives of the DR&HS will remain at the Drew House, 685 Washington

Street. Researchers may visit the library on Wednesdays, 9 am-noon and by appointment.

The DR&HS is dedicated to preserving the history and rural character of Duxbury and its environs. It currently has more than 1400 members and encourages membership from any interested parties. For more information, call 934-6106.